

Substitute page 1, between lines 21 and 22, insert the heading --OBJECTS AND  
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Substitute page 3, between lines 17 and 18, insert the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION  
OF THE DRAWING--.

Substitute page 3, between lines 23 and 24, insert the heading --DETAILED  
DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Before claim 1, between lines 2 and 3, insert --I claim:--

*Please substitute claims 1-7 with amended claims 1-4 as shown below in "clean sheet"  
format. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached.*

1. (Twice Amended) A soil compaction device with a guide handle provided with at least one light detector in the area gripped by the hand, said light detector emitting a signal corresponding to the brightness (brightness signal), wherein the light detector is coupled to an evaluation circuit that can evaluate the brightness signal in such a way that when a prescribed brightness threshold is exceeded or is not met, a control signal is sent to a control unit of the soil compaction device, and wherein the brightness threshold can be variably adjusted by the evaluation circuit according to the surrounding conditions by means of a surrounding light detector that is coupled to the evaluation circuit and is provided outside the grip area of the hand to determine the surrounding conditions.